

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

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R 101335Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3893

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, RC, CI

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE/CHILE RELATIONS IN COUP AFTERMATH

1. SUMMARY: GOA PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRE SENT LOW-KEY NOTE TO JUNTA LEADER PINOCHET OCT 5, ASKING THAT GOC "CONSIDER" SUSPENDING DEATH PENALTY AND EXPRESSING "DEEP CONCERN" OVER CASE OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER LUIS CORVALAN. IN RELATED MATTER, GOA GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM TO 47 CHILEANS INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE FORMER EXTREME LEFTIST LEADER. IN SPITE OF WIDESPREAD PRESS CONDEMNATION OF JUNTA, GOA HAS ENDEAVORED AVOID ACTIONS OR COMMENTS THAT WOULD SOUR RELATIONS WITH NEW GOC AND HAS HANDLED POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME EXILE PROBLEM IN EFFICIENT AND PRAGMATIC MANNER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF JUNTA EXECUTIONS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI SENT LOW-KEY NOTE TO JUNTA LEADER PINOCHET, ASKING THAT CHILE "CONSIDER" SUSPENDING DEATH PENALTY AND EXPRESSING "DEEP CONCERN" OVER CASE OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER LUIS CORVALAN.

3. LASTIRI'S NOTE WAS FIRST OFFICIAL GOA COMMENT ON EXTENSIVE REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS OF JUNTA EXECUTIONS OF LARGE

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NUMBERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT ALLENDE'S SUPPORTERS. (COMMENT:

ABSENCE OF COMMENT UNTIL NOW BY GOA NOTABLE IN VIEW OF OFFICIAL STATEMENTS NUMEROUS OTHER GOVERNMENTS. RESTRAINT PROBABLY STEMS IN EQUAL MEASURE FROM GOA DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOC AND VIEW OF PERON THAT GUERILLAS RATHER THAN MILITARY TO BLAME FOR SITUATION (BA-7118). TEXT OF LASTIRI'S NOTE CAREFUL TO BASE ITS "SENTIMENT" ON COMMON HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND STRESSES GOA WISH NOT TO IN ANY WAY INTERFERE IN GOC INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. TEST OF REGIME'S ABILITY TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE TO GOC WHILE NOT MARRING POPULAR IMAGE WAS SKILLFULLY DEMONSTRATED IN ITS HANDLING OF PROBLEM OF EXILES IN ARGENTINE EMBASSY SANTIAGO. GOA EXPLAINED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF, AND ATTEMPTS TO SECURE SAFE CONDUCTS FOR, OVER 500 EXILES AS HISTORICAL ARGENTINE POLICY RE POLITICAL EXILES. HOWEVER, GOA ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXILES, AND SUCCESSFUL EVACUATIONS (APPROXIMATELY 300 TO DATE) TO BUENOS AIRES, DID NOT INCLUDE WILLINGNESS TO GIVE POTENTIAL SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS FREE REIN IN ARGENTINA. EXILES WERE HELD AT AIRPORT HOTEL AND GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD CONSIDER ASYLUM ON "A CASE BY CASE BASIS". ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 7 THAT 47 CHILEANS TO BE ALLOWED TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN INTERIOR WAS MADE AS PUBLIC CONCERN OVER FATE OF EXILES BEGAN TO SURFACE IN PRESS, CONGRESS AND AS OBJECT OF LITIGATION.
LODGE

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